

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03954 160813Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 TRSE-00 /031 W

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O 160753Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3149

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3954

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM)

SUBJ: SECRETARY VISIT TO EAST JERUSALEM

REF: TEL AVIV 3849 (NOTAL)

1. LAST EVENING EVRON (MFA) RAISED SUBJECT OF PROPOSED VISIT OF SECRETARY SIMON TO EAST JERUSALEM. WE TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD NOT AS YET RECEIVED FINAL WORD ON WHETHER SECRETARY SIMON WILL VISIT OLD CITY AND, IF SO, WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY. EVRON THEN STATED THAT GOI COULD NOT ACCEPT A VISIT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CONGEN IN JERUALEM BECAUSE OF THE "DUBIOUS" STATUS OF THAT OFFICE. WE SUGGESTED AS ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE A VISIT THAT WAS NOT RPT NOT UNDER ANY OFFICIAL AUSPICES, BUT RATHER WHOLLY PRIVATE WITH LOCAL AMERICAN CLERGYMAN ACTING AS TOUR GUIDE.

2. EVRON QUICKLY BACKED AWAY FROM THIS BY NOTING THAT GOI COULD NOT AFFORD TO ALLOW ANY DEVIATION FROM PREVIOUS PATTERN OF FOREIGN VIP VISITS TO JERUSALEM, INCLUDING OLD CITY. HE AGAIN CITED EXAMPLE OF CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND THEN NOTED THAT THE ISRAELIS WANTED SIMON TO BE SHOWN AROUND JERUSALEM, OLD AND NEW, BY MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK, WHICH IS USUAL CUSTOM. WE ASKED IF THIS REPRESENTED A CHANGE IN ISRAELI POSITION SINCE OUR LAST CONVERSATION AND HE REPLIED IN AFFIRMATIVE, NOTING THAT AMBASSADOR DINITZ WENT FURTHER IN HIS CONVERSATION
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WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON THAN EVRON HAD IN HIS CONVER-

SATION WITH CHARGE ON JULY 11. HE ADDED THAT THIS POSITION REFLECTED VIEWS BOTH OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FORMIN ALLON. HE ADDED THAT DUE TO EXTREME SENSITIVITY IN ISRAEL OF THIS UNRESOLVED MATTER, IT WAS BEING HELD CLOSELY WITHIN SENIOR LEVELS OF GOI.

3. COMMENT: UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TELL THE ISRAELIS THAT SECRETARY SIMON WILL NOT RPT NOT VISIT OLD CITY DUE TO GOI INSISTENCE ON CONDITIONS UNACCEPTABLE TO US. IDEALLY, WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY INFO BEFORE ARRIVAL OF SECRETARY.
KEATING

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